Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~The motor according to claim 1~~
An electric motor, comprising:
a) a pair of stator teeth, having a stator slot therebetween, the stator slot having a slot opening which faces a rotor in the motor; and
b) means for increasing magnetic flux passing through the slot opening,
wherein the means comprises a body located radially outward of the slot opening.

3. (Original) The motor according to claim 2 wherein the means is magnetically and physically continuous with one of the stator teeth.

4. (Currently amended) The motor according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein the means reduces cogging torque of the motor.

5. (Original) An electric motor, comprising:
a) a pair of stator teeth, having a stator slot therebetween, the stator slot having a radial slot opening; and
b) a body located radially outward of the slot opening, which increases magnetic flux passing through the slot opening.

6. (Original) The motor according to claim 5 wherein the body is magnetically continuous with one of the teeth.

7. (Original) The motor according to claim 5 wherein the body is physically continuous with one of the teeth.

8. (Original) The motor according to claim 5 wherein the body is both physically and magnetically continuous with one of the teeth.

9. (Currently amended) The motor according to claim 5, wherein the body reduces cogging torque of the motor when no current is applied to the motor.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~The improvement according to claim 10,~~
In an electric motor having a rotor, the improvement comprising:
a) stator coils, and
b) stator core means for decreasing mid-phase reluctance of the rotor,
wherein the stator core means comprises a slot having a central axis, and said central axis is non-radial.

12. (Original) The improvement according to claim 11, wherein said central axis has
i) a radially inner region which crosses a radial line of the rotor,
and
ii) a radially outer region which is spaced circumferentially from said radial line.

13. (Original) In an electric motor having a rotor, the improvement comprising:

a) stator teeth, and

b) a non-radial slot opening separating neighboring stator teeth.

14. (Original) The improvement according to claim 13, wherein the non-radial slot opening decreases mid-phase reluctance of the rotor, compared with a radial slot opening.

15. (Original) The improvement according to claim 13, wherein the non-radial slot opening decreases cogging torque, compared with a radial slot opening.

16. (Original) The improvement according to claim 13, wherein the non-radial slot opening comprises a central axis, and said central axis has

i) a radially inner region which crosses a radial line of the rotor, and

ii) a radially outer region which is spaced circumferentially from said radial line.

17. (Currently amended) An electric motor, comprising:

a) a rotor;

b) an array of stator teeth surrounding the rotor, each stator tooth separated from its neighbor by a non-radial slot opening, which slot opening has

i) one wall formed by a facet of one tooth; and

ii) another wall formed by a surface of an adjacent tooth.

18. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) An electric ~~motor,~~ motor comprising:

a) a first stator tooth ~~having a first core~~;

b) a second stator tooth ~~having a second core~~;

c) [[a]] an elongated space separating the first and second stator teeth and having

i) a radially innermost slot opening and

ii) a central axis which is non-radial;

d) a body which is magnetically continuous with the first stator tooth, and has a radially inner surface which is radially outside said innermost slot opening.

28. (Currently amended) An electric ~~motor,~~ motor comprising:

a) a rotor;

b) a stator tooth having a radially inner face which includes

i) a first region of constant radius, and

ii) a circumferential boundary region to a slot opening that is not parallel to a radial line of said rotor, wherein the slot opening separates the stator tooth from an adjacent stator tooth.

29. (New) The electric motor as recited in claim 28 wherein the circumferential boundary region does not lie in the same plane as the first region.

30. - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) An electric motor comprising:

a) a rotor having a generally circumferential outer surface;

b) a first stator tooth, having a radially inner surface which includes

i) a first section which is generally parallel with the outer surface, and

ii) a second section which

A) is non-parallel with said outer surface and

B) cooperates with said outer surface to form a void;

c) a second stator tooth having a section which extends into the void.

36. (New) An electric motor, comprising:

a) a radial array of stator teeth;

b) a slot between each pair of neighboring teeth, which slot

i) is bordered by one surface on each tooth; and

ii) has a central axis, midway between the surfaces, which is non-radial.

37. (New) Motor according to claim 36, wherein the slot is generally V-shaped.

38. (New) An electric motor, comprising:

a) a rotor

b) a radial array of stator teeth;

c) at an end of each tooth nearest the rotor,

i) an extension A which extends counterclockwise and

ii) an extension B which extends clockwise;

wherein each extension A on a tooth partly overlaps extension B on its neighboring tooth.

39. (New) Motor according to claim 38, wherein each extension A cooperates with a neighboring extension B to form an elongated slot having a central axis which is non-radial.